

**2022 Engineering & Broadcast Operations Committee Review
of BEMC's Joint Master Control
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Reflections on the system

- Project Consultant John Luff walked the committee through the ten-year process leading to the RFP in the fall of 2014 for an integrator to build what today is Ohio's Joint Master Control
- Project Integrator Willy Halla aptly described the state-of-the-art solution his firm built based on an IP – Internet Protocol – which is cutting edge among PBS stations across America. He told us this system design allows for growth with flexibility to adapt to new technology

Reflections of the primary JMC Users

- BEMC Engineering and Broadcast Leaders told the study group how each of Ohio's Public TV stations receives some level of service from BEMC – full service from the JMC, creation of The Ohio Channel program stream, access to PBS signals for back-up / redundant purposes, as well as access to Ohio's Emergency Broadcast message stream
- General Managers and Chief Engineers / Technology Directors for WOSU, WBGU, Public Media Connect (Think TV / WCET) and WGTE, as well as The Ohio Channel, spoke at the July gathering describing dependency on the JMC solution to broadcast their respective channels, future plans and surprisingly the value to an individual station is nearly three-quarters of a million dollars

Reflections of the Ohio stations electing to retain Master Control services

- Consensus among these stations for not using BEMC for JMC services is a fear of the loss of state funding – without their own equipment and staff how would they stay on the air? While there were challenges in the onboarding, there is a consensus the accuracy of the product being delivered is exemplary
- Consensus among these stations is an interest in redundant / back-up services from BEMC to allow the stations to stay on the air in case of a catastrophic situation. In the Goals and Tasks outline for today's discussion there are several items for BEMC's Engineering & Broadcast leaders to explore: realistically each of these explorations may result in a custom solution for a particular station, and undoubtedly will require additional Capital Funds – funds which could be sought next fall in the FY 25 – 26 Capital Budget